

LEWISHAM GROUP ... HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Second Annual Report

FOR THE PERIOD

1st JANUARY, 1949 to 31st DECEMBER, 1949



WALTER R. OWEN, D.L., J.P., L.C.C. **A. J. TASKER, F.H.A.**
Chairman *Secretary*

April, 1950

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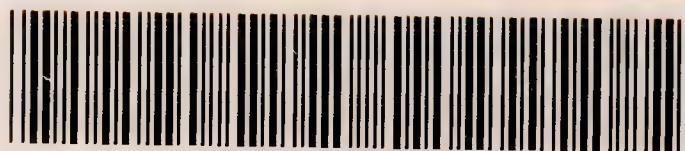
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**LEWISHAM GROUP
HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

**Second Annual Report
FOR THE PERIOD
1st JANUARY 1949 to 31st DECEMBER, 1949**

The Blackheath Press, Ltd., S.E.3.

1950

GROUP ESTABLISHMENTS

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL (General)
High Street, Lewisham, S.E.13.

PARK HOSPITAL, (Infectious diseases and general)
Hither Green, S.E.13.

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL (Tuberculosis)
Marvels Lane, Lee, S.E.12.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL (General)
Morden Hill, Lewisham, S.E.13.

BRITISH DENTAL HOSPITAL
72, Lewisham Park, S.E.13.

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY
Park Hospital, Hither Green, S.E.13.

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY
Lewisham Hospital,
High Street, Lewisham, S.E.13.

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC
1, Blagdon Road, Lewisham, S.E.13.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNITS
Grove Park Hospital, Marvels Lane, Lee, S.E.12.

LEWISHAM GROUP HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 1st January, 1949 to 31st December, 1949

Introduction.

The first report in respect of the period 5th July, 1948 to 31st December 1948, gave a very brief history of the group establishments together with a short resume of Section (3) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which are repeated, as the information may be of interest to those who did not receive the first report.

Under Section (3) of the National Health Service Act (1946) the Minister of Health has the duty of providing a comprehensive hospital and specialist service, directly answerable to Parliament for his discharge of that duty. The Minister discharges this duty principally through Regional Hospital Boards acting as his agents, who in their turn appoint Hospital Management Committees to act as their agents for the control and management of the day-to-day administration of individual hospitals or groups of hospitals in the Region.

The Lewisham Group Hospital Management Committee consists of seventeen members appointed by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, all of whom are voluntary workers selected from various bodies representing medical and lay organisations in the area.

During the year there was no diminution in the great spate of administrative work with which the committee was faced in their endeavour to develop the different elements of the group and to provide the people of Lewisham with the best hospital service obtainable within the limitations imposed by staff shortages and the immense leeway to be made up in building and equipment due in large measure to the ravages of the war years. An intensive and careful advertising campaign organised during the year for the recruitment of nursing staff had some measure of success, the total nursing staff for the hospitals showing an increase over 1948 of 45 whole-time and 16 part-time.

In the first report it was mentioned that part of a ward consisting of ten beds was opened at Lewisham hospital. This ward of 30 beds is now completely opened, and a further 10 beds have been made available for children, making a very valuable total addition of 40 beds at Lewisham hospital since July, 1948.

Waiting lists showing the position at Lewisham and St. John's hospitals have been considered at every meeting of the Committee and are under constant review to ensure that they are "live" and up-to-date. The Ministry of Health decided that each Management Committee should appoint a senior medical practitioner and a deputy to ensure close co-operation with the Emergency Bed Service and to assist in the urgent need for the constant review of beds available for the acute sick in London, and Dr. H. Nockolds and Dr. J. H. Simmons were accordingly appointed as the officers in the group charged with the responsibility for the admission or refusal of any general medical or surgical patient referred by the Emergency Bed Service.

Early in the year the Committee gave consideration to the office of Steward at the hospitals (Secretary-superintendent at St. John's hospital) and decided that under the new administrative structure the chief lay officer, under the direction of the Secretary at each of the group hospitals should be known in future as the "Assistant Administrative Officer."

Management Committee—Congratulations were accorded to the Chairman, Mr. Walter R. Owen, J.P., on his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of London. Mr. Owen is Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the London County Council.

It is with much regret that the death of Mrs. E. A. Johnson in Lewisham hospital on 24th November, 1949, is reported.

Mrs. B. M. Drapper, J.P., who was co-opted to be a member of the Establishment sub-committee in February, 1949, was recommended to the Regional Board in December to be appointed to the Management Committee in succession to the late Mrs. E. A. Johnson.

During the year Dr. H. V. Morlock resigned and Dr. M. H. Logg, senior physician at Grove Park hospital was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 1298 five members of the Committee are due to retire at 31st March, 1950, and the Management Committee decided to recommend the Regional Board that all five members be re-appointed for a further term of office. They are:—

H. Etherington, Esq., M.C.
F. B. Page, Esq.,
Mrs. N. Palmer
J. Sherrington, Esq.,
E. C. Sherwood, Esq., L.C.C.

Appointment of senior administrative staff

G. E. Lambert, A.H.A.	Assistant Secretary
C. Bradgate, F.H.A.	Deputy Supplies Officer.
S. Ball	Deputy Finance Officer.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman

Walter R. Owen, Esq., D.L., J.P., L.C.C.

Dr. John Bee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J.P.
Mrs. Z. E. Bell.
G. R. D. Bradfield, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S., L.C.C.
H. Etherington, Esq., M.C., A.S.A.A., A.C.I.S.
N. W. Farmer, Esq., L.C.C.
K. Heritage, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.
Dr. M. H. Logg, M.D.
Dr. J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.
Dr. H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
F. B. Page, Esq.
Mrs. N. Palmer
Mrs. W. J. Philpott, J.P.
J. Sherrington, Esq.
E. C. Sherwood, Esq., L.C.C.
Mrs. C. M. Stocken, S.R.N.

Officers

Secretary : A. J. Tasker, F.H.A.
Finance Officer : C. J. Fuller, A.C.I.S., A.H.A.
Supplies Officer : H. O. Skitt, M.P.S.O., A.H.A.
Group Engineer : J. H. Pattison, A.M.I.MECH.E.

GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman

Walter R. Owen, Esq., D.L., J.P., L.C.C.

Dr. J. Bee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., J.P
N. W. Farmer, Esq. L.C.C.
K. Heritage, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.
Dr. H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
Dr. J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.
Mrs. N. Palmer.
E. C. Sherwood, Esq., L.C.C.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman

H. Etherington, Esq., M.C., A.S.A.A., A.C.I.S.

Mrs. Z. E. Bell.

Dr. H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

W. R. Owen, Esq., D.L., J.P., L.C.C. (ex-officio)

F. B. Page, Esq.

J. Sherrington, Esq.

ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman

Mrs. Z. E. Bell.

Mrs. B. M. Drapper, J.P., (co-opted).

Dr. J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.

W. R. Owen, Esq., D.L., J.P., L.C.C. (ex-officio)

F. B. Page, Esq.

Mrs. N. Palmer.

Mrs. W. J. Philpott, J.P.

E. C. Sherwood, Esq., L.C.C.

Mrs. C. M. Stocken, S.R.N.

GROUP MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman

Dr. H. S. Banks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Dr. E. N. Allott, M.A., B.Sc., B.M., B.C.H., F.R.C.P.

Mr. C. C. Beney, M.A., M.B., B.C.H.

Dr. B. Gans, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P.

Mr. A. L. Gunn, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

Mr. J. Jemson, F.R.C.S.

Dr. M. H. Logg, M.D.

Mr. A. G. Lumsden, M.B., CH.B.

Dr. J. H. Simmons, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Dr. J. E. Stokes, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

HOSPITALS, LABORATORIES, CHEST CLINIC

Staff

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

Surgeon-Superintendent

H. Nockolds, D.S.O., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Matron

Miss M. C. Bell, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., T.A.

Assistant Administrative Officer

C. S. Gordon

PARK HOSPITAL

Senior Physician

H. S. Banks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Matron—Miss M. R. Bell, S.R.N., S.R.F.N.

Assistant Administrative Officer

J. C. Ward, A.C.C.S.

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL

Senior Physician

M. H. Logg, M.D.

Matron—Miss A. D. Cooper, S.R.N., T.A.

Assistant Administrative Officer

W. G. Jordan, A.H.A.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Chairman of Medical Staff Committee

K. Heritage, M.S., F.R.C.S.

Assistant Administrative Officer

J. C. Gilbert, F.H.A.

Matron

Miss E. M. Winrow, S.R.N., S.C.M.

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

Director—J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY

Group Pathologist—E. N. Allott, M.A., B.Sc., B.M., B.CH., F.R.C.P.

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC

Chest Physician—J. E. Stokes, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNITS

Medical Directors—F. D. Beddard, M.B., B.S.

J. M. Morgan, M.A., M.B., B.S.

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

A general hospital opened in 1817 and occupying 11 acres. The pre-war bed accommodation was 781 but owing to severe damage by enemy action the possible accommodation is reduced to 611. The very large outpatient department of 60 clinics continues to work under very grave difficulties as owing to war damage it has been necessary to disperse the clinics over a number of disconnected buildings. A preliminary training school for student nurses (women and men) for the whole group, and a part II midwifery training school, are also centred at this hospital.

Re-development—It was stated in the last annual report that the Management Committee had stressed, with the Regional Board, the urgent need for the immediate re-building of the hopelessly inadequate outpatients' department as a first priority of the re-building programme. During the past year, and with the authority of the Regional Board, the Committee appointed Mr. Rees Phillips, F.R.I.B.A., as consultant architect for the purpose of submitting a report on, and layout plan of a scheme for the re-development of the hospital particularly insofar as the older portions are concerned, and with particular reference to the need, as a first stage, for the construction of a new outpatients' department.

The report and layout plan have now been prepared and have already received the agreement in principle of both the Management Committee and the Regional Board. The Committee are now awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Health to the proposals, and the Ministry's authority to commence the first stage of re-development, i.e., the construction of new accommodation to house the existing outpatient clinics at an estimated cost of £82,500.

Massage department—Early in the year a scheme was completed at a cost of approximately £800 whereby one of the vacant wards in (E) Block has been adapted and equipped as a temporary physiotherapy department in place of the inadequate accommodation previously occupied.

X-ray department—During the course of the year a number of items of new x-ray apparatus have been provided in the department, the last being a 4-valve 500 MA x-ray co-ordinator unit together with motor driven tilting table with tubestand, etc., costing £4,200. This latter has not yet been installed as the Committee are awaiting authority from the Regional Board to implement the scheme for the extension and improvement of the existing x-ray department. This provides for a number of improvements in the existing department and for its extension to include the accommodation previously occupied by the physiotherapy department. The cost of the scheme will be approximately £3,800.

Emergency obstetric unit—An emergency obstetric unit consisting of a doctor and midwife, and, if available, a pupil midwife, is maintained at the hospital. The unit is designed to give emergency treatment to

complicated cases of labour when a patient is having her baby at home ; where unavoidable complications have arisen and the patient has become critically ill in a very short time, to the extent that removal to hospital would be unsafe without prior treatment. When such complications occur the midwife in attendance may call the hospital direct in very urgent cases or may call a local doctor who will decide whether the unit should be summoned, and if so the London Ambulance Service is contacted. An ambulance is sent to Lewisham hospital, having previously notified the hospital that they are coming, to pick up the unit together with the necessary apparatus. Blood transfusion is the most common need and some patients after treatment are then fit enough to be removed to hospital while others continue treatment in their own homes.

During the year the unit made fourteen emergency visits, the average lapse of time between the call for, and the arrival of the unit, being ten minutes.

Refresher courses for general practitioners—Courses in obstetrics and gynaecology for the post graduate education of general practitioners through the auspices of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation were organised during April and November by Dr. J. H. Simmons, consultant physician, and lectures and demonstrations were given by specialists of the group's medical staff.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists—Arrangements were made for clinical examinations for the Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to be held at the hospital in March and October, Mr. Alistair Gunn, Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, being one of the examiners.

Chelsea College of Physical Education.—Facilities were given to a student from the Chelsea College of Physical Education to spend three weeks during August in the physiotherapy department for the purpose of gaining practical experience in massage and medical gymnastics. It was the practice of the London County Council to permit visits of this kind, subject to the work of the hospital not being adversely affected and to no expense being incurred.

King Edward's Hospital Fund—Facilities were granted for a sister at Guy's hospital undergoing a course of training in hospital administration arranged by the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, to spend three weeks at the hospital, without charge, in order to gain practical experience in ward administration.

Psychiatric clinic—Arrangements were made at the end of the year to commence an additional evening clinic each week, on 3rd January, 1950.

Medical Records Department—Early in the year it was decided to appoint a medical records officer charged with the responsibility of re-organising the medical records system of the hospital which included the following sections:—appointments and registration, disease and operation indices, medical statistics, waiting lists and admissions, clinical notes, and casualty and physiotherapy records. Various sections of clerical staff were amalgamated and a clerk appointed to both the casualty and physiotherapy departments, to relieve the nursing and professional staff of routine and clerical work in connection with the documentation of patients and the safe custody of patients records. The waiting lists which had formerly been the responsibility of departmental sisters were taken over and reviewed, those patients who no longer wished to be admitted being deleted from the lists. Thus the waiting time for other patients was shortened and the temporary non-use of beds due to patients not reporting for admission was prevented. The changes in organisation have been made with the hospital working at full pressure and has progressed favourably with the full co-operation of all staff. When the scheme is in full operation the patients will receive an improved service and general practitioners will be kept fully up-to-date with all information regarding their patients.

Medical students—During the year three medical students worked at the hospital during their vacation two from Edinburgh University and one from Anderson's College, Glasgow.

London Ambulance Service—Early in the year arrangements were made with the London Ambulance Service to station three ambulances at the hospital during the day, purely for work in connection with the transport of patients to and from the hospital, mainly in connection with the outpatient services. This new arrangement has brought about a very great improvement in the transportation of patients and their waiting time at the hospital has been considerably reduced.

Training of student nurses—As reported last year arrangements were made during 1948 for the inception at Lewisham hospital of a combined preliminary training school for all four hospitals in the group. The first "school" commenced on 1st January and proved to be highly successful, the course of training lasting twelve weeks. The school is under the general supervision of Miss M. C. Bell, matron of the hospital and during the year there were four "schools" through which there passed a total of 132 students, 69 from Lewisham hospital, 24 from Park hospital, 17 from Grove Park hospital and 22 from St. John's hospital.

Nurses' rest garden—Early in the year plans were approved for the conversion into a nurses' rest garden of a walled garden attached to the medical superintendent's former house which was rendered uninhabitable by enemy action in July 1944.

Drawings of a proposed layout were kindly provided by Mr. A. R. Lawson, F.I.L.A. of the Parks department of the London County Council and work which was largely undertaken by the staff of the group proceeded rapidly. A wrought iron entrance gate was presented by Mr. Norman Farmer, a member of the Management Committee. It was decided to arrange for the annual distribution of prizes and certificates to the nursing staff on the day set aside for the formal opening, a ceremony which was very kindly carried out by K. I. Julian, Esq., C.B.E., Chairman of the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board on 2nd July, 1949.

Dr. H. Nockolds, surgeon-superintendent—It was reported last year that Dr. Nockolds reached retiring age in May, 1948, but that in view of the impending changes in administration and of his very long and exceptional experience of Lewisham hospital, and the needs of the district, the Management Committee, with the concurrence of the Regional Board and Dr. Nockolds had agreed that he should continue in office until 31st March, 1949, this date being subsequently extended to 30th September 1949.

In view of the fact that the staffing structure of the group was not settled and his knowledge and experience would be of inestimable value in the planning and co-ordinating of the work in connection with the new buildings, the Management Committee asked the Regional Board to authorise his continuance in office to which approval was received for a period of one year from the commencement of final contracts, which was from 1st January, 1950.

Lewisham Borough Council—proposed exchange of property
—It was reported last year that Colfe's Almshouses which are situated within the curtilage of the hospital and which were damaged by enemy action, are scheduled as an ancient monument. The Almshouses were erected between 1664 and 1666, and are regarded as an important example of the architecture of this period.

In the centre of the frontage of the hospital there is also the Registration Office belonging to the Lewisham Metropolitan Borough Council and in connection with the scheme for the re-development of the hospital which has been referred to above it is essential that the Committee should acquire the site of this building.

After several discussions both the Management Committee and the Lewisham Borough Council have agreed in principle to a suggestion whereby the Council will surrender the Registration Office to the Committee who in turn will transfer to the Council the Almshouses together with certain land at the rear on which the Council will construct a new Registration Office. The intention is that the Almshouses themselves shall be re-instated to their pre-war condition.

Negotiations to this end are still proceeding.

PARK HOSPITAL

A hospital occupying 20 acres, originally opened in 1897 as an acute fever hospital. The pre-war bed accommodation figure of 632 was curtailed as the result of enemy action to 572 beds (allocated as 272 fever and 300 general beds). The hospital is a fever training school (two years' training).

From the year 1943, when 4,273 cases of infectious disease were admitted to Park hospital, there was a continuous decline to the low figure of 1,511 admissions in 1948. In 1949, for the first time for six years, a slight rise occurred in the admissions, the figures being 1,803 infectious patients and 58 general medical patients (including sick staff), a total of 1,861. This increase reflected a slightly better rate of recruitment of student nurses. The improvement in nursing recruitment appeared to be a direct result of two factors : (1) the fairly substantial increase of salary granted to student nurses as a result of a Whitley Council decision, soon after the National Health Service Act came into operation, and (2) the greatly improved system of advertising carried out by the Management Committee.

Re-opening of closed wards—The first considerable increment of student nurses became available for ward work during the summer months and, as the incidence of infectious diseases was then low, G ward was re-opened for female general medical patients. This ward continued in operation to the end of the year.

The **scarlet fever** ward which had been closed for some months re-opened in July. The demands for admission remained very brisk until the end of the year.

The **whooping cough** ward was closed on 26th October, 1949, owing to the very low incidence of this disease. This is the first time for over 20 years that the demand for hospital accommodation for whooping cough has fallen so low. It is possible that this is related to the intensive immunisation campaign which has been waged in London against whooping cough during the last two or three years.

Decompression treatment of whooping cough.—The ex-R.A.F. decompression chamber, allotted by the Ministry of Health to the Park hospital for an investigation into this treatment, came into use during the year. Between May and October some 80 cases received the treatment, of whom 20 were in-patients and 60 were out-patients. Many of the latter came from distances of up to 25 miles. Reports received from the parents or doctors on the effect of the treatment amounted to 100 per cent. The treatment consists of the application of low atmospheric pressures for a period of one and a half hours, equivalent to an aeroplane flight to a height of 12,000 feet. The results obtained justified a continuation of this experimental treatment.

The outstanding epidemic disease of the year was poliomyelitis. The incidence was almost as great as in 1947. There were 81 certified cases and 36 additional cases admitted as poliomyelitis in which the certified diagnosis was not confirmed. Of these 81 cases 58 were paralysed, and there were 4 deaths. Three respirators ("iron lungs"), and at times, four, were occupied with cases of respiratory paralysis from July to December, 1949. The four fatal cases all had respiratory paralysis, and they included one young woman in the 37th week of pregnancy.

The deleterious effect of exercise after the onset of symptoms of general illness and before the onset of paralysis was well illustrated by two cases : (1) a waitress who carried on with her work during this period and whose paralysis commenced in the legs, and (2) a general medical practitioner who had to perform a difficult forceps delivery while he was ill with general symptoms, and whose paralysis three days later commenced in his arms.

No case of cross-infection with poliomyelitis occurred among the patients or staff of the hospital.

A new drug "chloromycetin" was used for the first time towards the close of the year when 6 **typhoid fever** patients were admitted in connection with the S.S. "Mooltan" outbreak.

A considerable amount of work was entailed by the treatment of 16 cases of **tuberculous meningitis** and acute **miliary tuberculosis** with the drug "streptomycin." Considerable success, at least temporary, was registered, and 11 of these patients were discharged during the year after many months of treatment. Only 3 deaths occurred during the year among these 16 patients.

Park hospital—boiler house scheme—The existing boilers and boiler house at Park hospital are very old, the boilers themselves now approaching the stage when they will rapidly become beyond economic repair.

A scheme has now been prepared for the construction of a new boiler house which will contain four new boilers, the total estimated cost being £65,000. The approval of the Regional Board has already been obtained to this proposal and the concurrence of the Ministry of Health is awaited before the scheme develops further.

Institute of Child Health—Facilities were granted in July and August for post-graduate students from the Institute of Child Health to visit the hospital daily over a period of five weeks, each visit being limited to two students.

Appointment of Senior Medical Staff

Senior Registrar—Dr. V. M. Borrelli, M.D., M.R.C.P.

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL

A special hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis by all modern methods. It has extensive grounds occupying 51 acres, and was opened in 1926. The potential bed accommodation is 401. The hospital is equipped to deal with adults (men and women) of all types of "early" and "medium" cases for whom active treatment is likely to prove beneficial, including an appreciable amount of thoracic surgery, and is a recognised complete training school for students desirous of obtaining the certificate of the Tuberculosis Association, in addition to being registered by the General Nursing Council as an affiliated Training School for male and female nurses.

During 1949 the daily numbers of bed patients depended from month to month on the total numbers of available nursing staff, but with an ever-increasing waiting list for routine admissions—and the priority waiting list for chemotherapy and surgical intervention—every endeavour was made to prevent the shutting down of beds which had been open at the beginning of the year. By mid-summer, however, the nursing situation deteriorated, for reasons beyond the Committee's control. Thus in the autumn reductions in bed accommodation had to be effected. This was done in the first instance by stopping all routine admissions; even then the nursing staff, realising that this hospital had the only antenatal tuberculosis unit in the region, continued to maintain the admissions of ante-natal tuberculous women. At the same time it became possible to obtain a few more male nurses, and as a result it was only for a few weeks that there was a reduction in the beds available for male patients. By the month of November, the reduced admissions and a slight increase in nursing orderlies enabled the various ward blocks to be staffed more adequately during the night hours, so that when this point was reached it became possible to recommence admitting on a small scale. It must be emphasised, however, that the greatest shortage is for trained nursing staff, and that until this "trained" staff can be obtained, there can be little improvement in the number of total admissions per week, on the amount of active intervention and treatment for the patients themselves, and on the expansion of the number of available beds at this hospital, where, at the end of 1949, prospective patients had already been waiting at home for periods of 9 to 14 months.

Despite these difficulties, the average daily number of occupied beds throughout the year was 249 and the lowest period (in November) reduced that figure to 209, whereas, the highest figure on any one day was 266. It also is interesting to note that in 1949, the total number of thoracic operations here, i.e., carried out by the visiting thoracic surgeons in the operating theatre, rose to 293, an increase of more than 50 as compared with the previous year; particularly important is the fact that there was a higher proportion of major thoracic operations, and the introduction of the most modern surgical technique whereby part or whole of a lung is removed (i.e. lobectomy and pneumonectomy). Similarly, research and treatment by means of chemotherapy increased materially during 1949, and the result of this work was outlined in various papers to the medical press and at meetings of tuberculosis societies.

The reduced number of beds, however, enabled certain major building operations, e.g. the re-building of a sanitary annexe for block "A" to be carried out, and this should be of great benefit when eventually the hospital is able to function fully again. It also enabled one of the vacant blocks to be allocated as a head quarters of the two miniature mass radiography units which were based at this hospital as from the beginning of 1949.

It should be mentioned also that until the end of October this hospital remained the regional distribution centre for streptomycin and during this first ten months of 1949 an average of more than 6,000 grammes per month of this drug was distributed (mainly in small quantities) throughout the whole of this region; nearly every case for which streptomycin was required, had to be investigated personally before the drug was issued. At the beginning of November, the Ministry of Health found it possible to release streptomycin from the stringent central control and each Management Committee Area thereafter became responsible for obtaining its own supplies of the drug from the manufacturers. This hospital continues to remain, however, as the distribution centre for the Lewisham group, and by the end of November, the Ministry of Health decided to utilise the pre-existing machinery for streptomycin distribution in this region for the control and distribution of aureomycin and chloromycetin (both comparatively new drugs which mainly are imported from America).

Towards the end of the year, work was commenced on the installation of a modern x-ray plant to replace the out-moded apparatus which had been in use for several years. The installation of this new apparatus should be of material benefit to the work of the hospital in future.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

A general hospital occupying 7 acres with provision for 112 beds. The hospital was instituted in 1883 by the Nursing Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and commenced with ten beds. The Sisterhood was responsible for its upkeep until 1924 when the management passed to a re-organised Court of Governors responsible for raising the money for its work. From 1910 onwards the bed and out-patient accommodation had been steadily growing, assisted by the out standing munificence of Dr. Ofenheim, and by 1925 there were 102 beds and an outpatient department dealing with an ever-growing attendance.

Extension to the Nurses' Home—In 1946 the Ministry of Health gave a promise to the late Court of Governors that licences would be issued for the erection of an extension to the nurses' home in compensation for the loss of premises demolished by enemy action which were formerly used as a nurses' home annexe. Work was commenced in October 1947 and during 1948 the Regional Board obtained the authority of the Ministry of Health to incur the necessary expenditure for proceeding with the scheme. The extension provides 29 bedrooms, each fitted with unit furniture specially made to the architect's design, lecture theatre and demonstration room, sitting and writing rooms, studies and ante-rooms.

The building and furnishing of the extension was completed by the end of the year and Dame Barrie Lambert, D.B.E., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., J.P. was invited to open the extension in January, 1950.

The nurses' annual reunion and presentation of medals and prizes was held in July, the presentation being made by Miss D. C. Bridges, R.R.C. At a Cross Giving Service held in the Chapel, The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Woolwich presented five nurses with St. John's crosses. The ceremonies were followed by tea in the garden and a dance in the evening.

Blackheath Rise properties—Nos. 5, 7, 13, 17 and 21, Blackheath Rise which belong to the hospital and which stand on the same island site were very badly in need of repair after being rather severely damaged by enemy action during the war. These properties are used for housing a number of medical, nursing and administrative staff of the hospital.

At the urgent request of the Management Committee, the Regional Board agreed on 31st December, 1949, to the whole of the war damage reinstatement and certain further improvements being effected at a total cost of approximately £6,900.

Competitive tenders for all the work were obtained, and it is hoped that the work will be completed early in 1950.

Pathological department—Dr. K. E. A. Hughes, full-time pathologist, left in July to take up another appointment and arrangements were made for the pathologist of the Lewisham Group Laboratory to be responsible for the pathological work of St. John's hospital and for the technician staff to be incorporated into the establishment of the Lewisham Group Laboratory.

Psychiatric department—Arrangements were made early in the year for an additional clinic to be held owing to the increase in the work of the department.

Chaplain—The Rev. J. F. Wedmore, Vicar of the Church of the Ascension, Greenwich, was appointed part-time Church of England chaplain in succession to the Rev. F. H. J. Newton who resigned owing to ill health.

BRITISH DENTAL HOSPITAL—72, LEWISHAM PARK, S.E.13

These premises are at present occupied by the London County Council for purposes associated with the school dental service. During the latter part of the year negotiations proceeded between representatives of the Management Committee, the Regional Board and the London County Council, with a view either to leasing or selling the premises to the County Council.

The Minister of Health has been requested to approve of one of these two courses being adopted.

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

This is a large group laboratory situated in the grounds of Park hospital and opened in 1927. In addition to pathological work, the laboratory undertakes the preparation of certain materials required for therapeutic and other uses for hospitals throughout the country and abroad, in addition to carrying out photographic and research work.

Pathological specimens—The laboratory undertakes all the pathological work for Park, St. Nicholas, White Oak, and Goldie Leigh hospitals, and supervises the work of Grove Park, Queen Mary's, Sidcup, and Queen Mary's hospital Carshalton, where there are laboratories with technicians. Laboratory work is also carried out for the School Medical Service of the London County Council as well as milk and other examinations for that Authority. Miscellaneous examinations are also undertaken for various other hospitals. The number of pathological specimens examined during the year increased from 29,961 in 1948 to 41,277.

Photography—A number of hospitals inside and outside the Region applied for photographic work to be done and at the request of the medical superintendent of Darenth Park hospital all the patients are being photographed for record purposes and to assist identification. Arrangements are being made to supply teaching material to the sister tutors and there has been a demand for 2" x 2" lantern slides but it is difficult to expand at present owing to lack of suitable accommodation which also prevents colour work being undertaken. It is hoped to provide additional accommodation in the near future.

Culture media and other products—The demand for culture media, stains and biological products continues to increase and in addition to supplying laboratories throughout the country, culture media is supplied to the British Army at home and abroad, and culture media and other materials have been supplied to Norway, Greece, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Saudi Arabia and for the "John Biscoe" expedition to the Antarctic.

Owing to the abolition of the London County Council pathological service the number of biological products issued has diminished, some items being discontinued, but the work as a whole has increased.

Authority was given during the year to establish a temporary culture media laboratory in ward "D" at Park hospital to house the staff which had been at West Park hospital, Epsom, since September, 1939, and work was commenced in ward "D" at the end of November, thus making for more efficient supervision and working.

New culture media station—The Southern group laboratory is in urgent need of extensive additional accommodation for the manufacture of culture media etc., and both the Management Committee and the Regional Board have during the year approved a scheme for the erection and equipment of a new culture media establishment in the grounds of Park hospital adjacent to the existing laboratory at a cost of approximately £65,000. The scheme is now awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Health.

Public Health laboratory work—An arrangement has been made with the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council) to carry out public health laboratory work for certain London boroughs but as the scheme has only just been put into operation no report can yet be made as to its working.

Staff—The Director was asked by the World Health Organisation and the Italian Government to conduct a survey of the Italian Public Health Laboratories as part of a survey of the Italian Public Health Service as a whole. He visited Italy during April and May and inspected a representative number of laboratories throughout the country and submitted a report on their work together with a scheme for the re-organisation of the Italian Public Health Laboratory Service.

Dr. Elizabeth N. Brand, assistant pathologist, resigned during the year.

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY

This is a large group laboratory opened in 1931, and situated in the grounds of Lewisham hospital. It undertakes pathological and special work, chiefly bio-chemical investigations and work in connection with the Rhesus factor and blood transfusion service.

The laboratory undertakes all the pathological work for Lewisham, St. John's and Brook hospitals, Ladywell Lodge and a large proportion of the work from St. Alfege's, St. Olaves, Joyce Green and Southern hospitals.

The work throughout the year shows an increase on the previous year and there seems to be little likelihood that this annual increase will cease. The laboratory is still preparing standard solutions for distribution to other laboratories, but the bottling and despatch of such solutions is now carried out by the Southern group laboratory, thus freeing a certain amount of accommodation for other work. It is hoped, in due course, to transfer the whole of the work in connection with standard solutions to the Southern group laboratory. The work in connection with the Rhesus factor has continued and a large number of mothers have been referred to the laboratory from other hospitals during the year. At present, the results for the last two years are being analysed, and it is hoped during the course of the next few months to come to a more definite opinion as to the value of replacement transfusion in the treatment of haemolytic disease. During the year 960 donors have been bled.

In April a technician was appointed to the staff of the laboratory for work in connection with electrocardiographs and clinical photography and valuable work has been done. Since appointment 400 electrocardiographic examinations have been carried out and 98 photographs taken, mainly for Lewisham and St. John's hospitals.

The group pathologist has been appointed Chairman of the Section of Chemical Pathology of the International Congress of Clinical Pathology to be held in 1951.

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC

The clinic is a centre for diagnosis with a comprehensive organisation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis and working in close co-ordination with general practitioners and the School Health Service.

The total number of notified patients on the clinic register at the beginning of the year was 2,217 and at the end 2,380, an increase of 163. 31 are accounted for by an excess of inward transfers over outward, a figure which does indicate an increase of the disease by importation. The balance of 132 does not necessarily represent an increase of the disease existing in Lewisham but an increase in the proportion known to the clinic. The figure is in any case to some extent arbitrary as it involves standards of diagnosis and recovery. 85 patients were removed from the register during the year as recovered. Furthermore, mass radiographic and other surveys have shown that there exists at any given time a large number of persons suffering from the disease who have not yet been discovered and this number is probably at least half as big as the register of known patients. A more satisfactory indication of the state of the disease is given by the death returns which were 109 in 1948 and 82* in 1949.

(*This figure may rise a little from late returns).

Of the 2,380 patients on the register 240 are non-pulmonary, of the 2,140 pulmonary patients 1,157 have never been proved to be infectious at any time and in 983 infection has been found at some time. Of the 983 only 316 remain as still infectious and many of these are recent cases in which treatment has not yet had time to become effective. The rate of conversion from an infectious to a non-infectious state is therefore very considerable. The spread of infection by known patients is greatly reduced by routine preventive measures.

The general work of the clinic is best shown in the form of tables giving some comparative figures.

		1947	1948	1949
Total attendances for all purposes				
excluding after care	... ...	12,170	17,518	18,907
At the request of private doctors	...	1,893	1,593	2,022
Re-attendance of old patients...	...	6,049	6,211	5,550
Attendances for A.P. refills	... ...	2,101	6,329	9,025
Contacts x-rayed	... ...	654	951	1,142
Total number of x-rays taken...	...	7,642	9,923	9,612
Home visits by health visitors	...		3,210	*(3,194)

* figure not complete.

After-care—The following figures give some indication of the work done in this direction but there is so much detail that no attempt is made to give a complete account.

Tuberculosis allowances under the National Assistance Board.

No. in receipt at beginning of year	...	...	...	...	...	171
No. referred during year	...	...	...	...	...	208
No. in receipt at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	191

Free milk as extra nourishment through London County Council

Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Granted	...	...	...	...	...	...	49

After Care Committee

No. of meetings	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Reports considered by Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Nos. to whom help has been given from Voluntary Fund (balance referred to other agencies)	...	...	...	...	...	...	235
Receipts of Voluntary Fund	...	...	...	...	£1,315	0 8	
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	£ 941	5 1½	

Handicraft classes

		No. on Register	Attendances
Embroidery and toy-making	...	24	470
Sewing	...	12	199
General handicrafts	...	15	734
Bookbinding	...	16	320
			1,723

Appointment of senior staff

Assistant Chest Physicians—Dr. D. H. O'Brien, M.B., B.C.H., B.A.O. and Dr. G. Z. Brett, M.D.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNITS

Two Mass Radiography Units joined the group in January and April with the task of operating in the metropolitan and suburban areas of the South-East region, their headquarters being established at Grove Park hospital. During the past year both units have been working outside the Lewisham area and have made 49,674 examinations which have included groups from factories, clubs and schools.

One of the units has recently been equipped with a magnificent mobile van and trailer containing a compartment for the x-ray set, a fully equipped dark room and a diesel generator. It is hoped that the other unit will be similarly equipped in due course.

FINANCE

During the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948, the primary consideration was the gradual building up of a system to carry out the various functions devolving upon the chief financial officer of the Committee and this was continued during 1949.

A large number of the functions taken over were not, so far as the former London County Council hospitals were concerned, carried out at the hospital but by various departments of the Council.

These functions included the preparation of estimates, the checking and payment of accounts for supplies and services, keeping the various books of account, the preparation of the final accounts and all matters relating to superannuation. With the exception of the checking and payment of accounts for the majority of supplies and services which continued to be dealt with under an agency arrangement with the London County Council until March, 1949, the whole of this work was taken over by the Management Committee on 5th July, 1948.

Annual Accounts—No accounts are available for the period of the report as these are prepared on an annual basis for the period 1st April—31st March.

The accounts for the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st March, 1949, have been completed and audited and a report upon the annual summary accounts will be presented to Parliament by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, as required by Section 55(4) of the National Health Service Act.

Audit—Four interim examinations of the accounts of the Committee and its officers were carried out during the year by Mr. J. E. Paul, Auditor No. 7. Audit Area and his staff.

In addition an internal audit programme has been devised but owing to the considerable amount of urgent and special work that has arisen, it has not been found possible to put this fully into operation. It is hoped however to do this early in 1950.

Centralisation—The checking and payment of all invoices for supplies and services to the hospitals and other establishments in the group has been centralised. Preliminary consideration has also been given to the centralisation of the preparation and payment of salaries and wages and as a first step in this direction the preparation and payment of the salaries and wages of staff employed at Lewisham hospital, Lewisham Group Laboratory and the Chest Clinic were centralised on 1st January, 1949 and the payment of monthly salaries for all hospitals on 1st October 1949. The absence of suitable additional accommodation that would be required at the Group Office has prevented, for the time being, consideration being given to further centralisation of salaries and wages and of other work (e.g stock records).

Costing—Pending instructions from the Ministry of Health, no complete system of costing has been introduced. Periodical costing of certain specific items e.g. provisions, have however been carried out. It is essential that some form of costing should be introduced at an early date as it is only by such means that financial control and efficient administrative supervision can be maintained.

The Select Committee on Estimates appointed by the Government recommended that “A uniform system of costing should be devised as soon as possible for the Hospital Services in England and Wales” and it is understood that the Ministry of Health have this matter under active consideration.

Payment of accounts for supplies—The cessation of the agency arrangements for supplies etc., with the London County Council in respect of their former hospitals in March, 1949, involved a considerable increase in the number of invoices to be checked and paid. About 30,000 invoices are now passed for payment and 7,000 cheques drawn annually in respect of supplies and service.

SUPPLIES

For the first three months of the year the London County Council continued to act as agent for the Management Committee in respect of the hospitals and establishments formerly controlled by them, except that requirements entailing long periods for delivery were taken over by the Committee. The County Council terminated all its contracts on 31st March, 1949, and new contracts were arranged by the Committee to cover all stores from 1st April, 1949. The change over was effected smoothly and without disturbing the functioning of the hospitals and other establishments. There were many shortages caused by the war years to be made up. For instance most of the hospitals were deficient in such articles as cups and saucers, bed linen and towels. Supplies began gradually to improve in the second quarter of the year and most items continued to become more plentiful until at the end of the year except textiles and clothing the supply of which suffered a setback by the devaluation of the pound in September and the uncertainty as to future costs.

The method by which the Supplies Division of the Committee works is as follows:—The more important items are covered by contracts for deliveries to be made over a period of 6 or 12 months. As the stock levels fall at the hospitals, requisitions are forwarded to the Supplies Division who arrange to show samples, draw up specifications and invite competitive tenders or quotations from a number of firms. On receipt the quotations are summarised and the samples examined. After acceptance orders are placed with the contractors and delivery is required either direct to a hospital, laboratory, etc., or to a group store which has been temporarily provided at Park hospital. This is used only where economy is effected by taking bulk deliveries, to build up a stock of scarce items not immediately required or to facilitate checking and examination of goods.

Foodstuffs—Rations of several foods have been increased and various others have been removed from control during the year. Welcome as the increases are, they mean corresponding increases in the Managements Committee's expenditure. Prices of several goods have also risen during the year. According to the "Grocer" retail prices were 16% higher in 1949 than in 1948.

During the year it was found practicable to improve the dietary in regard to quantity and quality. The basic foods are of course those on the weekly ration so improvements had to be looked for outside these foods. Special attention was paid to the quality of fresh vegetables and fruit and hospitals were encouraged to increase their use of green vegetables and salads. It was a good year for English fruit and full advantage was taken of the fact. Consumption of tomatoes was increased. Quick frozen tomatoes were used during the winter for cooking purposes and experiments were also made in the use of quick frozen fruits and peas. Non-ration cheese was purchased to augment the cheese ration. Better varieties of fish were procured. Rabbits became more plentiful during the second half of the year. At the beginning of the year it was impossible to secure sufficient poultry to meet the requirements of patients on special diet but by December all needs could be met. Good sausages were scarce and are likely to remain so as long as the officially regulated meat content remains low and little pork is allotted for sausage making.

Textiles, clothing and uniforms—Most items were subject to long delays in delivery but replacements were gradually effected of articles which the hospital badly needed at the beginning of the year for example, sheets, bedspreads, towels and for several of these items the inventory quantities were increased. Non-utility items of this type were purchased as hospitals in common with other public authorities were asked by the Board of Trade not to buy utility articles needed by the retail shops for the use of householders. Certain utility cloths for doctors' and nurses' overalls and nurses' uniforms were specially designated by the Board of Trade for the use of hospitals and in the early part of the year a scheme existed which allowed replacement of cotton yarn to a contractor supplying these goods to hospitals. This scheme was later abandoned and contractors now have to obtain their cloth in the ordinary way. White drill utility cloths and clothing were difficult to obtain throughout the year. The Committee in conjunction with the matrons and representatives of the nursing staffs inspected uniform dresses of various styles and designs specially made by contractors and displayed by members of the staff. New styles of uniforms were selected : for student nurses lightning check regatta with soft white collars and cuffs and short sleeves ; for staff nurses the same but with long sleeves and maroon petersham belt ; for ward sisters two models were selected, the final decision being left to the individual sister, the materials being navy blue sateen drill and repp poplin ; square bib aprons without straps to be worn by sisters and nurses ; for the theatre sisters a white drill dress ; for assistant matrons and administrative sisters a tailored dress of green woollen material. Uniforms for all nursing staff, it was decided, were to be made to individual measurements. Contracts were entered into and orders

placed. Up to the end of the year however only a few dresses had been delivered. The most serious delay occurred with staff and student nurses' uniforms. Export orders for the cloth took priority over the Committee's orders and the contractors were unable to deliver the dresses by November as originally arranged. Further purchases of the white dress overalls had therefore to be made to fill the gap.

For male staff uniforms the Committee approved cloths of a finer texture than those previously used and the contract provided for uniform suits and overcoats to be made to individual measurements.

Crockery, hardware and engineers stores—Supplies of earthenware gradually improved throughout the year and prices became competitive. Owing to the ban on decoration for the home trade considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining numbered crockery which is essential at Grove Park hospital. Eventually the Board of Trade gave special permission for a quantity to be manufactured. Further difficulty in finding a pottery willing to undertake the work was encountered but by the end of the year the problem was solved. Considerable quantities of glassware were purchased from the manufacturers for use at Southern Group Laboratory.

By the end of the year the number of cups, saucers, plates and glassware were sufficient for all needs in contrast with the position at the beginning of the year.

Quantities of enamelware are required in the hospitals, e.g. lotion bowls, kidney dishes, pails etc. The purchasing position is gradually improving but buying had to be restricted to small lots as they became available. Cleaning materials of all kinds are included in this section and little difficulty was experienced except that the quality of brushes, scourers etc., is not so high as is desired. Engineers' and builders' stores purchased include bricks, cement, timber, paint, paint brushes, tanks, sinks, steel tubing and hot water fittings, cable, flexible wire, switches, fuse boxes, electric light fittings etc.

The use of softwoods, iron and steel is limited to quantities allotted by the Regional Board permits.

Furniture—The main purchases were 50 bedroom suites for the nurses' bedrooms at Park hospital and bedroom and sitting room furniture for the 34 rooms of the new nurses' home extension at St. John's hospital. Utility furniture was purchased but "freedom of design" introduced into the Utility scheme before the furniture was purchased for St. John's hospital gave a much wider choice. Steel nesting chairs were purchased for the nurses' recreation room at Lewisham and wooden folding chairs for use in the hospital. Considerable repairs and re-upholstering have been carried out at several hospitals.

Medical supplies—Large quantities of drugs were purchased, those in common use under contract and many proprietary items from the manufacturers. The most valuable included penicillin and sodium

para-aminosalicylate, the latter being used extensively at Grove Park hospital. Both of these were substantially reduced in price during the year. For reasons of economy penicillin is distributed from Lewisham hospital. Grove Park hospital acts as the distributing agent for streptomycin, aureomycin and chloromycetin. With the two notable exceptions mentioned prices showed little alteration during the year.

Surgical dressings and sundries—Dressings on the other hand were substantially increased in price during the year. For the greater part of the year prices were subject to control but on the removal from control the Surgical Dressing Manufacturers Association established their own scale of charges. Deliveries were subject to very considerable delay particularly cotton wool, lint gauze and bandages. Surgical instruments, being usually made of stainless steel, were difficult to obtain without long waiting periods. Catgut and some types of rubber goods had to be purchased when and where available.

Services—Contracts were made for window cleaning, removal of flue dust and rubbish, undertaking of funerals, chimney sweeping, maintenance of weighing appliances, etc. Motor transport passenger coaches for examinees and lorries to convey equipment to and from location had frequently to be hired in connection with the work of the Mass Radiography Unit.

Reviewing the year as a whole the hospitals were definitely in a better position as regards supplies at the end of 1949 than they had been for some years.

Summary of Contracts, etc., for the year ended 31st December, 1949

Section	Number of sets of tenders and quotations issued	Firms invited to quote	Number of items
Textiles	162	1171	369
Printing	107	522	471
Food	30	259	94
Medical	52	308	292
Miscellaneous	168	930	588

WORKS AND ENGINEERING

As stated in the last report the group establishments in July, 1948 were found to be in urgent need of external decorating which had not been done for many years, as well as repairs and rebuilding necessary as the result of war damage. Each of the group hospitals has its own engineering staff and workshops under the direction of the group engineer, and staff are temporarily transferred between establishments according to the needs

of the work in hand. Despite the fact that most engineering supplies are in very short supply it has been found possible to carry out many jobs in a satisfactory manner. Towards the end of 1948 L.J.J. Murfin, Esq. B.Sc., A.M.I. MECH. E. was asked to prepare a survey of the engineering plant and services of the group establishments and in February submitted a very comprehensive report which will serve as an engineering guide for a long time—in fact, it can be regarded as something of the nature of a five-year plan.

In spite of the stringent financial limitations the following schedule shows some of the major items of works and equipment authorised during the year, viz :—

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL

Nurses' Home—

	£
Refrigerator	229
Wireless points and lighting improvements	250
Kitchen equipment	300
Tennis court—new chain link surround	50

Cleaning & Painting—

A & C. Blocks and entrance and forecourt	926
Wards C1 and C2	600
Mortuary Block	150

X-Ray Department

Provision of small waiting room	60
Two developing units	490
Repairs and spare x-ray tube	146
Sinus stand and diaphragm	298
X-ray co-ordinator unit with motor driven tilting table	4,700

Massage Department

Adaptation and equipment	800
Miscellaneous apparatus	275

Miscellaneous

Replacement of telephone cable	145
„ dampers in boiler room	220
„ cold water storage tanks	240
„ soft water steam pump	110
„ electric cable to main supply	300
Electric pumps—water seepage—Nurses' Home	300
Re-lagging of steam pipes	380
Metal windows—balconies C Block	270
Covered veranda from ward to balconies A.3 Block	150
Glazing balcony and re-glazing lantern lights	134
Re-laying pathway E Block	145

10 ward refrigerators	...	...	...	...	915
Loudspeaker and microphone equipment	...				60
New operating table	...	...	...	...	292
Additional furnishings—resident doctors	...				220
Bedside rugs	...	...	...	...	72
Glazed lean-to-balcony ward E.6.	...				75
Motor van	...	...	...	...	550

PARK HOSPITAL

Cleaning and painting blocks A, B, C, and K	2,085
Replacement of pipe coverings and lagging	400
Five ward refrigerators	510
Nurses' home refrigerator	229
Dressings sterilizer	121
Bricking up of arches to protect steam pipes	240
Repairs to coal bunkers	180
Food mixer	478
Repairs to drains	200
Portable x-ray unit	209
Repairs to bulk meat refrigerator	185
Repairs to lighting cable	74

GROVE PARK HOSPITAL

Remodelling of sanitary annexe A block	...	5,148
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Cleaning & Painting

Blocks A, B, G and H, Gardener's and Engineer's houses	1,958
Nurses' home—exterior	452

Miscellaneous—

X-ray equipment	...	...	...	...	117
Steam garment press for laundry	...				270
Six ward refrigerators	...	...	...	...	615
Separation of sputum and disinfecting rooms from laundry	...	...	...	...	100
Repairs to roads and paths	...	...	...	...	150
Provision of empties and vegetable store	...				310
Dishwashing machine	...	...	...	...	300
Carpets and rugs for staff quarters	...				180
Replacement of ceiling—laundry packing room	...	...	...	...	65
Repairs to drains—steward's house	...				80

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

Nurses' Home—

Completion of extension including furnishings and extending the heating arrangements	45,000
Cleaning and painting	800
Repairs to roadway	500

Operating theatre—provision of air conditioning plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	925
Operating theatre—new sterilizers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000
Replacement of refrigerator	...	...	...	...	...	...	112

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

New compressor in refrigeration chamber	...	...	...	...	...	410
Adaptation of D block	...	...	...	...	...	975
Provision of fluorescent lighting	...	...	...	...	...	222
Refrigerator	...	...	...	...	...	120
Repairs to metal windows	...	...	...	...	...	140
Two motor vans	...	...	...	...	...	1,100

LEWISHAM GROUP LABORATORY

New electric supply cables, switchboard, etc.	...	...	...	...	500
Super enlarger and rotary glazer	...	...	...	...	215
Fluorescent lighting	100

LEWISHAM CHEST CLINIC

Provision of equipment and minor works	110
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SOUTH-EAST LONDON MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNITS

Miscellaneous equipment	555
Minor adaptations to various premises in carrying out surveys in certain areas	100
Adaptations to accommodation at Grove Park hospital	...	...	...	...	...	105

War damage reinstatement—The Management Committee are very concerned at the considerable amount of war damage reinstatement still outstanding in the group as a whole. At Lewisham and St. John's hospitals in particular the position is very serious and the continued delay in effecting reinstatement is causing the buildings concerned to deteriorate still further.

The Regional Board have been pressed for authority to undertake at least part of these works but with the exception of certain work at St. John's hospital which is referred to elsewhere in this report it has not so far been possible to obtain authority to proceed owing to the existing financial stringency and the position in regard to the availability of materials.

Medical staffing and bed allocation of hospitals—The Committee in conjunction with their Group Medical Committee gave very careful and detailed consideration to a plan suggested by the Medical Advisory Committee of the Board for providing a more comprehensive hospital and specialist service in the group, the plan enumerating the suggested number of consultant outpatient clinics, operating sessions and allocation of beds to specialties. The proposed plan was returned to the Board together with the observations of the Committee, and will, when approved be implemented as a fairly long-term measure by stages, commensurate with improvements in the staffing position and the development and completion of various new building works.

Civil Defence Act 1948—National Hospital Service Reserve—

In accordance with a request from the Ministry of Health the Committee have arranged for the establishment in this area, of a Hospital Service Reserve, consisting of trained nurses and midwives and nursing auxiliaries, Lewisham and St. John's hospitals being designated as training centres under the scheme, and Lewisham hospital being responsible for undertaking medical examinations, including x-rays of personnel for the Reserve. Close liaison will be maintained with the local recruiting offices of the British Red Cross and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Fire services—The Management Committee has accepted with thanks an offer from the London County Council for the London Fire Brigade to continue the services which they at present render to Lewisham, Grove Park and Park hospitals in connection with the inspection of fire appliances, monthly training of hospital fire brigades, etc., and to extend similar services to St. John's hospital.

Homes for the aged sick—The King Edward's Hospital Fund for London allocated a sum of money for the provision of homes for the aged sick to be run by voluntary bodies and to be closely linked with hospital management committees. The Committee were very anxious to be provided with such a home, which would result in a much quicker turn round of beds, and therefore made immediate application to the Fund for the establishment of a home in this group. The Committee were informed that this group was not among the successful applicants, only three homes being opened in the South-East Region, but should it be found possible to open a fourth home at a later date this group's application would be reconsidered by the Fund.

Provision of pay-beds under sections (4) (part-cost) and (5) (private) of the National Health Service Act, 1946—At the end of 1948, the Committee were asked to submit proposals to the Regional board for the setting aside of pay-beds at the group hospitals. After very considerable deliberation, the Board were informed that the Committee considered the existing provision of seven Section (5) beds should be continued at St. John's hospital and that the question of providing either or both Sections (4) and (5) beds at the remaining hospitals in the group should be deferred for twelve months, it being considered that it would be quite impossible to set aside beds in small wards at Lewisham hospital in view of the great pressure on bed accommodation, and that there would be little call for such beds at Park and Grove Park hospitals.

[*Section 4—Accommodation provided in single rooms or small wards which is not for the time being required for any patient on medical grounds, the charge being limited to a maximum of 6/- a day for single rooms and 3/- a day for beds in small wards with two or more beds.*

Section 5—Special accommodation for patients who undertake or in respect of whom an undertaking is given to pay such charges as may in accordance with regulations be determined to cover the whole cost of the accommodation services provided, including an appropriate amount for overhead expenses.

In addition the regulations prescribe maximum charges to be recoverable by specialists and general medical practitioners.]

The Board decided, however, that provision should be made at Lewisham hospital for twelve Section (4) (part-cost) beds, 4 in single rooms and 8 in two-bed rooms, and 6 Section (5) (private) beds in single rooms, which decision was confirmed by an Order of the Minister of Health.

The Minister subsequently reduced the number of Section (5) beds at St. John's hospital from seven to five.

If accommodation nominated for Section (4) (part-cost) pay-beds is required by another patient on medical grounds when occupied by a paying patient, it may be necessary to transfer the latter to a general ward when charges, would of course, cease, and this condition is made clear to patients when seeking such accommodation. The beds nominated for both Sections (4) and (5) patients are available for any patient who needs that accommodation on medical grounds and for whom suitable accommodation is not otherwise available.

Domiciliary Consultant Service—It is an integral part of the hospital service to provide, when the patients' condition makes it essential, for the services of specialists at the homes of patients. It is for the family doctor to determine whether specialist help should be sought and to show that it is essential that it should be given at home. A considerable number of the consultants available to the group have undertaken this additional work. The Regional Board maintain a panel of those prepared to undertake domiciliary visiting and a list in respect of this group was sent to all general practitioners in January, 1949, and up-to-date lists maintained at all the group establishments.

Letters of appreciation and complaint—Numerous letters of appreciation of the services rendered in the group hospitals have been received during the year, in addition to letters written personally to individual members of the staff. Letters of complaint are also received occasionally and all are fully investigated.

The National Formulary, 1949—In 1946, a representative committee representing the British Medical Association and the joint committee on a National Pharmaceutical Service was established to compile a standard prescribers formulary. In May, 1949, copies were issued by the Ministry of Health to the group establishments, as well as to all members of the medical and pharmaceutical professions who had accepted service under the National Health Service Act. The formulary was not intended to be exhaustive, the prescriber being in no way limited to the preparations listed, but it was hoped that duplication with formulae of substantially the same composition would be avoided, and that the scope provided would obviate the need for individual formularies.

Pathological services for general practitioners—In February, 1949, all local practitioners were informed that in order to facilitate pathological investigations on their behalf, it had been decided to hold pathological outpatient sessions once a week at Lewisham and St. John's hospitals; patients to be seen by appointment and doctors asked to provide a brief clinical history indicating the reasons for which a particular test was requested. In July, 1949, the pathologist at St. John's hospital resigned, and the work at that hospital was incorporated with that of the Lewisham group laboratory. Two pathological outpatient sessions continue to be held at Lewisham hospital each week and the local branch of the British Medical Association have expressed their appreciation of the service.

Recruitment of nurses—In connection with a film entitled "The Hasty Heart" which was shown at local cinemas in November, and which dealt with the work of a nurse, arrangements were made for three nurses from Park hospital to give a short talk to the audience preceded by the showing of some slides taken in the group depicting the work of a nurse and for recruiting pamphlets to be distributed by nurses from the group in the foyer each evening.

During the year a brochure was prepared in respect of Lewisham hospital which it is hoped will be of assistance to young women who are contemplating taking up nursing as a career. Similar brochures in respect of the other hospitals in the group are in course of preparation.

Cine and film strip projectors—In July it was decided to purchase cine projectors and film strip projectors for each of the group hospitals in connection with the training of nurses and the Director of the Southern Group Laboratory undertook to arrange for the production of any type of film or slide that might be required.

Co-ordination of the x-ray services of the group—Early in the year the Management Committee agreed to a recommendation of the Group Medical Committee that in the interests of the group as a whole, the x-ray staff of the group hospitals and chest clinic, together with the supervision of the x-ray equipment thereat should be co-ordinated under the joint direction of the radiologists of St. John's and Lewisham hospitals.

Memoranda from the Ministry of Health—The Ministry of Health, from time to time, issue memoranda to the Management Committee on policy, procedure and the future development of the hospital service, covering all aspects of administration, finance, staffing, supplies, works, etc., and during the year 136 such memoranda were received.

Visiting the hospitals, laboratories and chest clinic—It may be of interest to indicate again the procedure adopted by the Management Committee for visiting the group establishments in the interests of the welfare of the patients and staff and which has continued to work very

satisfactorily during the year. The Management Committee form themselves into four visiting groups of four each, with a convenor for each group. These members in fact form a "House Committee" and make frequent visits to the group establishments to deal with such matters as the comfort and well-being of the patients and staff, visit the wards, inspect the kitchens, laundries, etc., and see meals served. They also meet together with the principal officers and interview such of the staff as have been recently appointed to or are about to leave the service. These groups undertake the visiting of a different establishment every three months so that members will have a complete knowledge of all establishments. The two group laboratories and the chest clinic are for these purposes included in the arrangements for visiting one or other of the hospitals. These groups of the Management Committee report back on any matters on which they deem it expedient so to do.

Co-operation with adjoining groups—During the year arrangements were made to assist adjoining groups as follows:—

Artificial eyes—Patients from hospitals in the Bromley group who require artificial eyes and who do not wish to travel to the Government eye fitting centre at Acton or Tunbridge Wells are referred to the Ministry of Pensions artificial eye fitter on his monthly visit to Lewisham hospital as the number of patients involved in the Bromley group does not warrant the attendance of an eye fitter to that group.

Supply and repair of dentures—The supply and repair of dentures for patients from the group establishments are undertaken at the dental laboratory maintained at St. John's hospital, and arrangements were made at the end of the year to undertake the supply and repair of dental work required for the Woolwich, Greenwich and Deptford and Sidcup and Swanley groups following the cessation of agency arrangements with the Central Dental Laboratory of the London County Council. This service is not yet in full operation and it is not possible to report further on the undertaking at this stage.

Christmas festivities—In November, 1949, the Management Committee were informed that the Ministry of Health had authorised the continuance of a grant of 5/- a patient and 5/- a head of resident staff at the group hospitals for the provision of Xmas trees, decorations, entertainments, children's toys and additional dietary etc. and programmes of the festivities to be organised were approved. The Committee also made a substantial grant to each of the group hospitals from their Endowment Fund for the provision of extra amenities and comforts for both patients and staff. The Committee are grateful to the staff for their enthusiasm and inspiration which made such a success of the festivities and conveyed their thanks and appreciation of the additional work that was involved in the preparations.

Inoculation against tuberculosis—It has been decided by the Ministry of Health to offer to hospital nurses and medical students the opportunity of being vaccinated against tuberculosis with the vaccine prepared from Bacillus Calmette-Guerin now commonly known as “B.C.G.” This form of inoculation is the same in principle as, for instance, smallpox vaccination—namely, to produce in the human body an artificially acquired resistance to the disease by injecting its causal organism in a form which does not cause active development of the disease itself. It is not yet certain that B.C.G. vaccination gives complete immunity against the disease but there is no doubt that it reduces the danger of infection and there is also some evidence that if a vaccinated person does subsequently contract tuberculosis the vaccination is likely to make it less severe. Supplies of B.C.G. vaccine are obtainable by air from Copenhagen and owing to technical difficulties supplies were not immediately available but full arrangements have been made and approved for the introduction of inoculation for the nursing staffs of the group hospitals as soon as the material can be obtained. Special record cards will be maintained in accordance with administrative instructions received from the Ministry of Health and explanatory leaflets issued to the nursing staff, every nurse being given the opportunity of voluntarily exercising her choice about receiving, or declining the vaccination.

Endowment and “free” moneys—The Management Committee have at their disposal as “free money” for the expenditure on amenities for patients and staff, income from endowments and from gifts etc. A statement giving details of the income from endowments and other “free” moneys is submitted to each ordinary meeting of the Committee for allocation, where the wishes of the donor are not indicated.

During the year a sum of £2,786 18s. 3d. was received including large sums from the Ministry of Health’s central hospital endowments fund and from the London County Council—Sunday cinematograph entertainment—and expenditure was authorised on numerous purchases for the amenities of patients and staffs, some of the main items being the provision of wireless and television sets, sports equipment and indoor games, additions to patients and staff libraries, dances and outings, gramophone records, crockery for nurses’ reunions etc., and for patients and staffs Xmas festivities a sum of £441 was allocated between the group hospitals.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the donors of numerous gifts which have been made to the group hospitals during the year which have included gifts of money, fruit, books and flowers.

National “Safe Driving” Competition—Four motor drivers in the group were entered for the 1948 “Safe Driving” competition and the following awards were made, one 16—19 years bar, one bar to 5 year medal, one 5 years medal and one diploma.

Patients' and staff libraries—Libraries for patients and staff libraries are maintained at the group hospitals and excellent work was undertaken during the past year by the voluntary librarians. In view of the value to the patients of the library service provided by the St. John and Red Cross Library Fund the Management Committee have authorised the payment of an annual grant of £8 8s. 0d., towards the expenses incurred in providing the service to the group hospitals. There are seven voluntary librarians at Lewisham hospital and during the year 33,824 books were issued, an average of 640 books each week and at St. John's hospital issues during the year totalled 7,720 books. At Grove Park hospital there is a British Red Cross librarian and eight voluntary helpers, and the average weekly issue of books and magazines totalled 500. The books for the libraries are mainly supplied by the British Red Cross and every month a number of up-to-date books are sent; also there is a very good loan library available from which it is possible to borrow books on special subjects the patients may be studying.

Press and Information sheets—During the year information sheets have been circulated to general practitioners, etc., in the area, giving details of the procedure for the admission of patients, an outpatient time table, together with other available matters of interest concerning the facilities provided under the National Health Service at the group establishments.

The Secretary is authorised to issue a written press statement following each meeting and to interview any representatives who desire information relating to the work and proposals of the Committee, likely to be of general interest.

Publications by Staff—An article was published by Dr. M. C. Wood, radiologist at Lewisham hospital, on the photographic naming of x-ray films in the December issue of the British Journal of Radiology.

An article written by Mr. J. C. Monckton, senior technician at the Southern Group Laboratory on "A slide method for demonstrating soluble haemolysin" was published in the November issue of the Journal of Clinical Pathology.

STATISTICS

STATISTICS.

In-patients—1st January—31st December 1949

1. Beds		Lewisham	Park	Grove Park	St. John's	Total
	(a) Potential	611	572 (272 fevers) (300 genl.)	401	112	1,696
	(b) Average daily number available (staffed)	406*	145	268	104	923
	(c) Average daily number occupied	393	116	249	97	855
	(d) Highest daily occupation in the year	424	136	266	103	929
	(e) Lowest daily occupation in the year	313	83	209	72	677
2. Number of patients in the hospital on 31st Dec. 1948		396	97	255	78	826
3.	," , " , " , " , " , 1949	396	112	212	81	801
4. Number of patients (a) Admitted		6,649	1,861	358	1,985	10,853
	(b) Discharged	6,180	1,794	381	1,911	10,266
	(c) Died	469	52	20	71	612
5. Number of live births		—	—	2	—	1,201
6. Number of operations performed (a) Major		5	85	826	2,640	5,284
	(b) Minor	1,724	5	208	1,350	1

* This figure does not include 64 maternity cots.

Out-patients—Treatments and Examinations in radiological and physiotherapy departments.

1st January—31st December, 1949

Lewisham Hospital	Park Hospital	Grove Park Hospital	St. John's Hospital	Chest Clinic	Totals
Out-patient clinic attendances					
New patients	14,647	307	473	26,601
Old patients	45,543	459	18,434	112,504
Casualty (attendances)	88,476	—	9,354	—
TOTALS	148,666	270	766	18,907
Number of examinations in radiological department	17,926	1,296	4,027	5,331
Number of patients treated in physiotherapy department	2,292	—	1,199	2,300
Number of treatments given in or by physiotherapy department	59,564	—	6,316	35,180

Note Regular out-patient sessions were not provided at Grove Park and Park hospitals.

Nurses' examination results 1st January—31st December 1949

Hospital	Lewisham			St. John's			Grove Park			Park		
	Passes	Failures	Entires	Passes	Failures	Entires	Passes	Failures	Entires	Passes	Failures	Entires
Examination
State Final	36	36	—	14	12	2
State Preliminary Parts I & II	57	46	11	11	9	2
Central Midwives Board	70	61	9	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Association	—	—	—	—	8	7
											1	—

PATHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Examinations completed during the period 1st January—31st December 1949

	Lewisham Group Laboratory	Southern Group Laboratory	St. John's Hospital Laboratory	Total
Bacteriological	30,650	14,208		44,858
Biochemical	...	10,885	4,361	15,246
Pathological	...	32,200	20,122	52,322
Histological	...	4,071	1,435	5,506
Post Mortems	...	320	18	338
Rhesus tests	...	29,700	—	29,700
Blood Transfusion Service				
Donors Bled	...	960	—	960
Miscellaneous	...	—	1,133	1,133
TOTALS	...	108,786	41,277	13,423
				163,486

SOUTHERN GROUP LABORATORY

Products prepared and issued during the year 1949

Media	Solutions for intra-venous injections			Stains and Solutions			Grouping Seras for Blood Transfusions			Tuberculin for Mantoux and other tests			Kahn and Wasserman anti-gen			Sterility Test Envelopes			Dried Complement		
	Number of Containers	Litres	Number of Containers	Number of Containers	Litres	Number of Containers	ml.	Capillary tubes	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.	ml.
35,773	1,300,451	47,044	93,753	4,363	83,896	1,060	13,816	1,235	18,140	622	1,900	550									

Photography carried out by the Southern Group

Laboratory during the year 1949

Negatives	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lantern slides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
X-ray reductions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Photomicrographs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cine film	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Contact prints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

40

5

116

S T A F F

Staff employed at 31st December 1949

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Medical Whole time	Medical Part time	Administrative and clerical (all grades)	Professional and technical (other than medical dental and nursing)	Nursing	Domestic Others	Total Staff (excluding medical)
Lewisham hospital	25	9	32	27	282	257
Park hospital ...	5	—	8	6	75	122
Grove Park hospital	5	10	9	9	73	124
St. John's hospital	5	29	14	17	64	75
Southern Group Lab.	3	—	4	21	—	33
Lewisham Group Lab.	8	—	3	23	—	5
Lewisham Chest Clinic	3	—	4	2	—	—
Group Office ...	—	—	35	—	—	—
Mass Radiography Units ...	2	—	12	6	—	—
	56	48	121	111	494	616
						77
						1,419

Note:—Part time employment in Columns (b)—(g) is included in terms of the nearest whole time unit of staff.

Recruitment of nursing staff 1st January—31st December, 1949

Hospital	Grade of nursing staff	Number employed on 31st December 1948						Number employed on 31st December 1949						Comparison between 1948 & 1949	
		Full time		Part time		Full time		Part time		Full time		Part time		F.T.	
		Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	P.T.	P.T.
Lewisham	Trained staff ...	3	61	—	23	10	65	—	—	31	+11	—	—	+ 8	
	Student nurses ...	20	90	—	—	22	103	—	—	—	+15	—	—		
	Asst. nurses ...	5	7	—	8	2	4	—	—	13	— 6	+ 5	—		
	Other nursing staff	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	— 1	+ 3	—		
	Certified midwives ...	—	14	—	4	—	—	13	—	4	— 1	—	—		
	Pupil midwives ...	—	23	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	+13	—	—		
	Total ...	28	197	—	36	34	222	—	—	52	+31	+16	—		
Park	Trained Staff ...	1	36	—	7	—	32	—	—	10	— 5	+ 3	—		
	Student nurses ...	—	17	—	—	—	31	—	—	—	+14	—	—		
	Asst. nurses ...	—	2	—	4	—	3	—	—	7	+ 1	+ 3	—		
	Other nursing staff	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—10	
	Total ...	1	55	—	23	—	66	—	19	+10	— 4	—	—		

Hospital	Grade of nursing staff	Number employed on 31st December 1948				Number employed on 31st December 1949				Comparison between 1948 & 1949			
		Full time		Part time		Full time		Part time		Full time		Part time	
		Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	P.T.	P.T.
Grove Park	Trained staff	1	33	—	—	5	25	—	—	1	—	4	+ 1
	Student nurses ...	5	9	—	—	7	17	—	—	—	+ 10	—	—
	Asst. nurses	6	11	—	—	3	7	—	—	1	—	7	+ 1
	Other nursing staff ...	—	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	2	—	6	+ 2
	Total	12	54	—	—	15	56	—	—	4	—	5	+ 4
	Trained staff	—	24	—	1	—	18	—	—	3	—	6	+ 2
St. John's	Student nurses ...	—	35	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	7	—
	Asst. nurses	—	3	—	5	—	1	—	—	3	—	2	— 2
	Other nursing staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	—	62	—	6	—	61	—	—	6	—	1	—
	Totals for the group ...	41	368	—	65	49	405	—	—	81	+ 45	+ 16	—



